

Blue Grass *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Summer 2006

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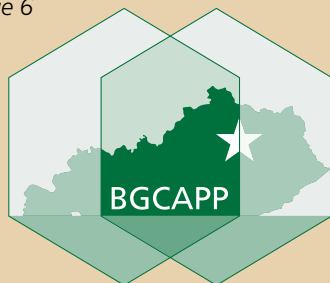
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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

1000 Commercial Drive, Suite 2
Richmond, KY 40475
(859) 626-8944
bgoutreach@bah.com
Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F
Other hours by appointment

Blue Grass Chemical Activity Public Affairs

(859) 779-6897

Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs

(859) 779-6221

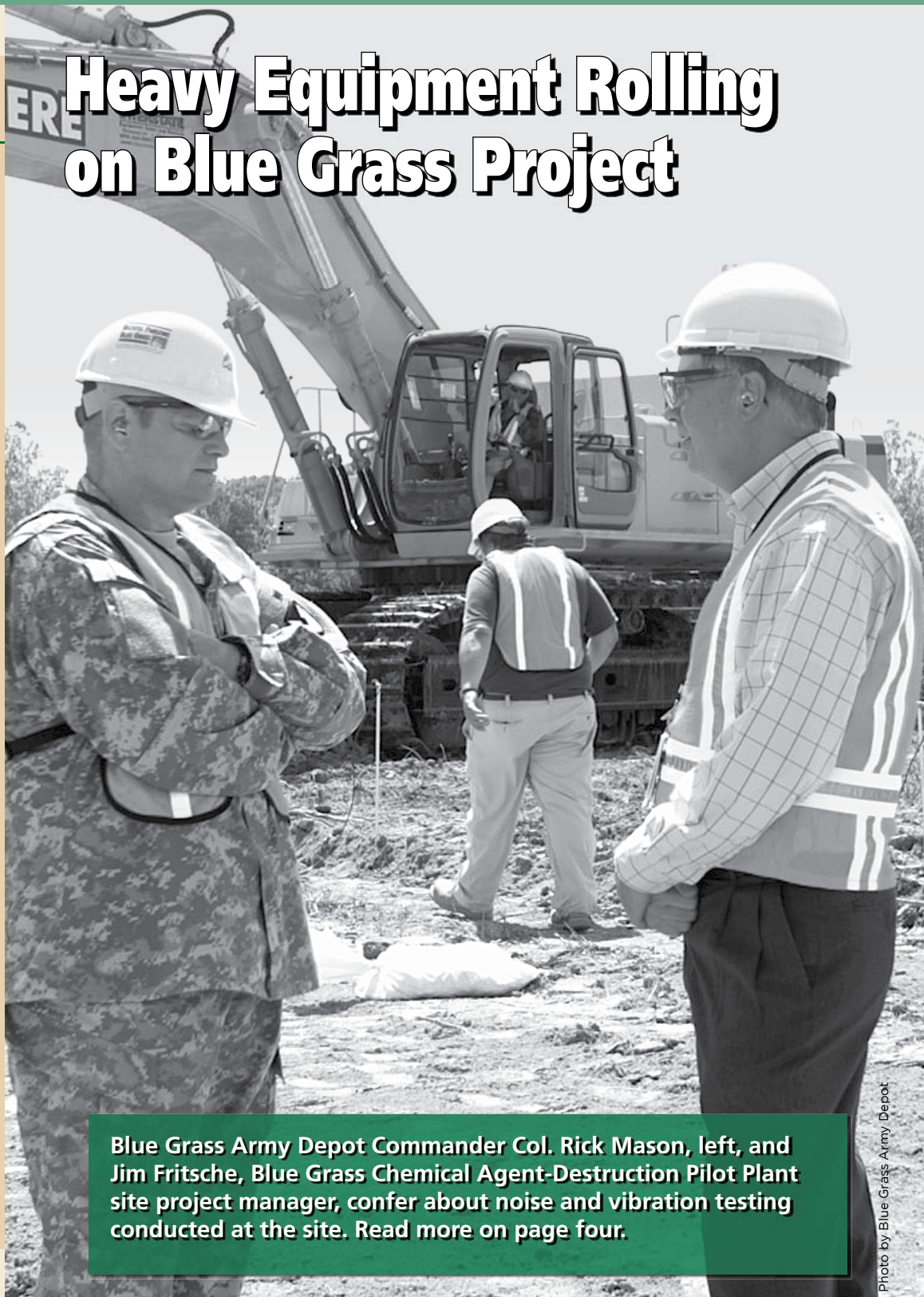
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Public Communications

(859) 625-1291



www.pmacwa.army.mil

Heavy Equipment Rolling on Blue Grass Project



Blue Grass Army Depot Commander Col. Rick Mason, left, and Jim Fritsche, Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site project manager, confer about noise and vibration testing conducted at the site. Read more on page four.

Photo by Blue Grass Army Depot

Message From the Managers

Preparation for Site Work Gears Up

By JIM FRITSCHÉ

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction
Pilot Plant Site Project Manager

And CHRIS HAYNES

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Project Manager



Photo by outreach team

Teamwork is the foundation of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) project. Our team includes corporations that have years of experience in large design and construction projects such as Battelle, Bechtel National, General Atomics, General Physics, Parsons Infrastructure and Technology and Washington Group International. We work hard to keep the members of our team safe, while making the protection of the community and the environment our top priority.

The BGCAPP team has achieved numerous milestones over the past few months. The increased pace of the project can be seen as work on

the access road and construction gate moves ahead. The Allen Company of Winchester, Ky., our access road and earthwork subcontractor, has cleared the land using large bulldozers and is working on the access road from Highway 52 to the future site of the plant.

In addition, the project welcomes Paul Wojciechowski to the management team. Wojciechowski was recently named the deputy project manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass. Wojciechowski brings a wealth of Army and chemical demilitarization experience to Blue Grass, having served as commander of the Newport bulk chemical agent storage facility and commander of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant.

Other News

- A goal of the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PMACWA) is to establish the long-term plan and budget for remaining project stages. To meet this goal, team members continue to focus on the life cycle cost estimate for the government team and the systems contractor.
- The draft life cycle cost estimate for the systems contractor was

submitted to the government recently. PMACWA will now finalize the BGCAPP life cycle cost estimate and submit the final product in support of the Defense Acquisition Board review in August.

- The systems contractor's design review teams recently completed an intermediate design submittal for the munitions demilitarization building and the control support building. Our collaborative 3-D model review and specialty break-out sessions in Pasadena, Calif., were held in June. Both life cycle cost estimate and design review will be part of the Defense Acquisition Board's executive approval process.
- Washington Group International is under contract to the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Team to systemize, operate and close the future BGCAPP. The company has immediate job opportunities available at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and could provide jobs for Kentucky residents who would like to gain experience at the Pine Bluff facility, and then return to the BGCAPP facility for jobs during the systemization, operations and closure phases.

Save the Date: October 28



The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Groundbreaking Open House is scheduled for Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. at Eastern Kentucky University. This ceremony celebrates groundbreaking for the United States' last chemical agent destruction plant. For additional information, contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Project Aims to Hire Within Local Community

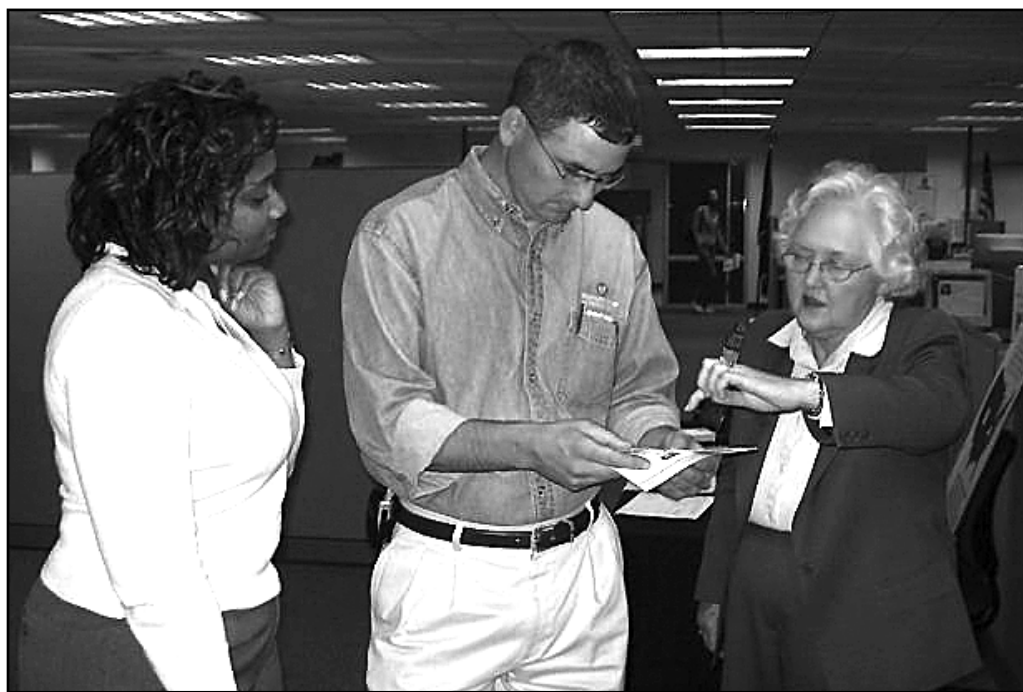
Many people in the community have questions about the types of jobs that will be available during the systemization and operations phases of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

“Our intent is to recruit and staff locally as many of these positions as we can,” said Ron Hawley, operations general manager for the systems contractor. Hawley is an employee of Washington Group International, a project partner with extensive experience at most of the nation’s chemical demilitarization sites.

When the plant is in full operation, Hawley estimates there will be about 30 administrative jobs and about 475 people working in operations and maintenance. More than 125 personnel will be needed in laboratory operations.

In addition, some 135 qualified employees will be needed in project management positions ranging from line supervision to technical and business systems professionals.

With the wide range of jobs available, Hawley said that the project wants to hire local people with the right skill sets. This includes people who have experience handling ammunition,



Erika Hadley, left, and Kyle Moseley of Washington Group International and Sandra Plant, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, confer during the recent Pine Bluff Chemical-Agent Disposal Facility Job Fair at the Central Kentucky Job Center in Lexington, Ky.

Photo by outreach team

dealing with toxic materials and following precise instructions.

He is a firm believer that employees from the local community are the best ambassadors for the project. “They

understand their role in eliminating the risk to their community and are very committed to that task,” Hawley said.

Other favorable employment backgrounds would include experience

in industrial safety, environmental

“You often hear people say that safety is their number one priority, and we are no different. When dealing with chemical weapons, there is no room for error.”

— Ron Hawley

How do you find out about present and future employment opportunities with the government’s systems contractor?

Stephanie Tevis, human resources specialist for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, encourages all job seekers to log on to the project Web site at www.bechtelparsonsbgcapp.com, click the employment section and view all current employment opportunities with the project.

Prospective employees may send a copy of their resume to Tevis at **301 Highland Park Drive, Richmond, KY 40475**, or at bpbgshr@bechtel.com. The resumes will be added to a resume database, which the team will draw from when it begins hiring for construction, systemization and operations.

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Workers Conduct Heavy Equipment Testing to Ensure Safe Storage

Blue Grass project officials are satisfied that noise and vibration levels generated during the operation of heavy equipment during construction will not jeopardize the safe storage of the chemical weapons stockpile.

In late May, technicians conducted standard tests used at many large construction sites called peak particle velocity (PPV) tests. These tests determine how close heavy equipment can get to the stockpile located in nearby igloos without impacting storage. With this information in hand, site work can proceed under parameters that protect both the workers and the stockpile.

Pleased with the test results, Jim Fritsche, the government's site project

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Photo by Blue Grass Army Depot

From left, Jim Fritsche, Col. Mason and Chris Haynes discuss the peak particle velocity testing on the project construction site.

Agency Committed to Emergency Preparedness

Madison County Emergency Management Agency, or EMA, and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, or CSEPP, recently hosted their second Safety Fair where multiple organizations joined them in sharing key safety messages with the community. More than 1,500 people attended the event.

In addition to hosting the Safety Fair, Madison County EMA and CSEPP offer a public education class, CSEPP 101. The class is routinely taken by Eastern Kentucky University's freshmen

orientation class and College of Nursing students, Berea College of Nursing students, local industry workers and civic groups.

CSEPP 101 is available to individuals and groups interested in emergency preparedness. For more information, contact the Madison County CSEPP office at (859) 624-4787 or visit www.madison-county-ema.com.

CSEPP is a joint venture between the U.S. Army and the Department of Homeland Security. The program was established to enhance emergency preparedness in

communities surrounding the chemical stockpiles.

Madison County is one of 10 CSEPP counties in Kentucky. Other CSEPP counties include Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jackson, Jessamine, Laurel, Powell and Rockcastle. The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management and Blue Grass Chemical Activity, a tenant organization at the Blue Grass Army Depot, are also CSEPP partners.

For more information on CSEPP and Kentucky CSEPP partners, visit www.KentuckyCSEPP.com.

Workers Conduct Heavy Equipment Testing to Ensure Safe Storage

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manager, said, “The test shows how we are protecting storage and the stockpile. This is a good example of how we are staying safe while the program is being executed.”

Otis Drinkard, project construction superintendent for the systems contractor, explained how PPV testing is conducted. A test bed is set up with sensitive devices that sense and record vibration levels, and microphones that detect and record sound waves. The next step is to drive every piece of heavy equipment to the test bed and



Photo by Blue Grass Army Depot

Technicians conduct heavy equipment testing.

to operate the equipment so that it “produces as much energy as possible,” Drinkard said.

The end product is a chart that identifies equipment and the distance the equipment can be used from a sensitive structure such as a building, a well or a laboratory.

“We took a conservative approach in planning our work in proximity to the stockpile. The test results indicate that our conservative approach can be further exceeded,” Drinkard said.

The PPV testing was conducted by Phippen and Associates, subcontractors to the Allen Company of Winchester, Ky., which is the systems contractor’s access road and earthwork contractor.

Project Aims to Hire Within Local Community

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regulations, quality control, hazardous waste management, compliance, security and emergency preparedness.

After hiring, the individuals will be trained in the safety culture and conduct of operations that will be required on the job, Hawley said. “You often hear people say that safety is their number one priority, and we are no different. When dealing with chemical weapons, there is no room for error.”

An important component of meeting qualifications for some jobs with the Blue Grass project is the ability to meet strict U.S. Army personnel reliability program standards. Employees subject to Army requirements are expected to possess good decision-making skills and personal integrity. Drug or alcohol problems, poor work records, criminal records and serious emotional problems are also taken into consideration.

Initially, technical staff will be needed to support systemization or startup equipment testing. “This is when we test out the plant equipment prior to introducing real munitions,” Hawley explained. The target for systemization is spring of 2009.

The next wave of hiring will occur during the operations phase around 2011. Qualified staff will be hired, trained and cleared for the first of the munitions campaigns – GB rockets. In order to complete the task as soon as possible, four crews will work 12-hour shifts on a rotational schedule.

CURRENT PROJECT STAFF UPDATE

48

Blue Grass Chemical-Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) employees based in Richmond

223

BGCAPP employees based in Pasadena and San Diego, Calif.; Pasco, Wash.; and Columbus, Ohio

10-20

Individuals per day work on the project as employees of the Allen Company, a project subcontractor

70

The number of Allen Company employees will peak at 70 per day during July and August 2006

Retired Ammunition Inspector Tracks Chemical Weapons Destruction Project

Bill Scott, a retired Army ammunition inspector, wants to see the chemical weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot destroyed.

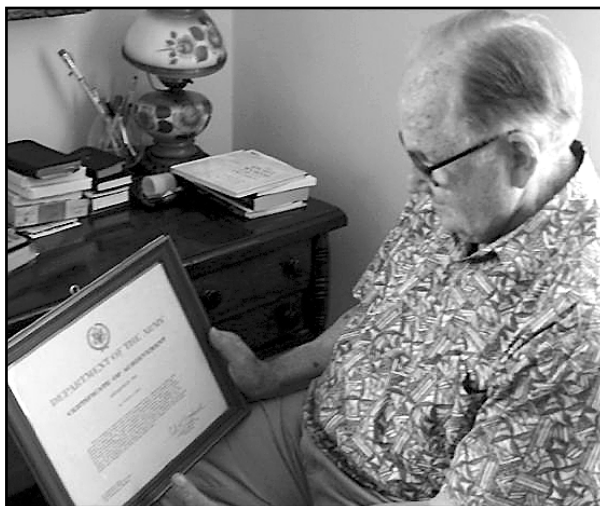
Although he retired from the depot more than 30 years ago, Scott is still tracking the chemical demilitarization project at Blue Grass. He attends the quarterly public meetings of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board and other stakeholder meetings. Along with other community members, he also writes letters to officials.

“We’ve given our opinions to the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, senators of Kentucky and civilian personnel working on the program,” said Scott. “I talk to people and express my opinion.”

How does Scott get his information? “I talk to the Blue Grass outreach office staff, [community member] Toivo Puro and read the newspapers,” he said.

Scott has been tied to the Blue Grass Army Depot since it opened in 1942, during World War II. He arrived just in time to see the first boxcar load of ammunition arrive in September 1942 containing 37mm ammunition.

The primary mission during the war was shipping and receiving ammunition. Each boxcar load of ammunition had to be inspected both externally and



Bill Scott reminisces on his career as an ammunition inspector.

internally and any damages reported. “All ammunition operations were checked on a daily basis to ensure safety and that the proper procedures were followed,” said Scott.

Post, camp or stations returns (ammunition returned from soldier camps) were a real challenge and required strict inspection. The ammunition was certified for future use and placed in storage.

From 1950 to 1958, Scott had six assignments spanning the continent, including Alaska and New Mexico. In 1958 he was assigned to the Southern European Task Force, a NATO task force. It was a headquarters job in Italy; he monitored depot operations, storage points and provided technical assistance as needed.

Two years later, he was assigned a position at the 3rd Army Headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. Scott accepted a top ammunition job, monitoring

ammunition operations at forts Benning, Stewart, Jackson, Bragg and Campbell.

In 1962, Scott worked for the Deputy Chief of Surveillance Division in Savanna, Ill., where he provided on-the-job training for the ammunition inspector school. “They had good fishin’ at Savanna – crappie, bass and catfish,” said Scott, “because we were so close to the Mississippi River.”

Four years later, Scott stopped fishing to serve in Vietnam. Scott’s job was to get information to troops about suspended ammunition or ammunition that was not serviceable.

Scott was then moved to the 7th Army Support Command in Stuttgart, Germany. The Stuttgart base was a training base with large inspection teams assigned to battalions. “Germany was a good assignment,” he said. “We lived on post, and a fringe benefit of living on post was that you didn’t have to pay rent.”

“In Germany I worked strictly with military personnel. This was different from working in the U.S. where I worked mainly with civilians,” said Scott.

In 1970, Scott returned to the United States. He was re-assigned to the Blue Grass Army Depot and returned to Madison County in 1971.

In 1975, Scott retired from the depot with 33 years of experience as an ammunition inspector. He and his wife Virginia reside in Madison County.

Citizen Exchange

Citizen Exchange focuses on questions frequently asked by members of the community. If you have a question you would like to have answered in this section, please send it to Editor, Blue Grass Exchange, ATTN: Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 1000 Commercial Drive, Suite 2, Richmond, KY 40475. You may also send questions via e-mail to bgoutreach@bah.com.

Question: The Madison County Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program advocates the use of Shelter-In-Place in the unlikely event of a chemical emergency. What is Shelter-In-Place?

Answer: Shelter-In-Place is an effective way to protect yourself from harmful chemicals that may be in the air. It is a method used to help keep contaminated air out of your home by reducing the amount of outside air that filters in. It is the quickest way to provide short-term protection during a chemical emergency. Visit www.madison-county-ema.com for more information.

Question: How can local businesses sell services and products to the Blue Grass project?

Answer: Potential suppliers and subcontractors are required to register on the Bechtel Supplier and Contractor Portal, <http://supplier.bechtel.com>. Most bid opportunities will be posted on the project Web site, <http://www.bechtelparsonsbgcapp.com>. For more information, please contact Diane Osbourne, small business program advocate, at (859) 624-6204 or dosbourn@bechtel.com.

Blue Grass Chemical Activity Welcomes New Commander

Lt. Col. Thomas J. Closs took command of the Blue Grass Chemical Activity in a July 12 ceremony held at the Blue Grass Army Depot, relieving outgoing commander Lt. Col. George Shuplinkov, who was reassigned to the Department of the Army Inspector General's Office.

Nearly 100 people attended the ceremony, which included speeches by Michael Parker, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency; Lt. Col. Shuplinkov and Lt. Col. Closs. Renditions of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "My Old Kentucky Home" and the passing of the colors, a flag ceremony symbolizing the transfer of command, marked the significance of the occasion.

"While partnering with the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program, the Blue Grass Chemical

Activity continues its commitment to safe storage of the weapons until they are destroyed," said Closs. "Our primary focus is the safety of the employees of Blue Grass Army Depot and the chemical activity and the surrounding community. The chemical activity pledges continuing compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention."

"My family is excited about living here [in Richmond, Ky.]," Closs said. "We have been received with open arms – our kids have integrated into our new neighborhood. We are overwhelmed by the friendly nature of central Kentuckians."

In his last assignment, Closs served as the Chemical Officer for Headquarters, United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.



Photo by outreach office staff

Lt. Col. Closs discusses community outreach and BGCAPP partnerships during a recent visit to the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office. "Organizations involved in the chemical demilitarization process should be joined at the hip in community outreach," said Closs.

CHEMICAL DESTRUCTION BOARD WILL MEET IN SEPTEMBER



Photo by outreach team

CDCAB attendees receive a project update at the June 14 meeting.

Mark your calendar...

for the next Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) meeting on Sept. 12 at 1:30 p.m. at Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Quads A and B. The governor-appointed Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission will meet at the conclusion of the CDCAB meeting.

Come see local leaders in action representing the views of the community on the chemical weapons destruction project at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

For more information, call **(859) 626-8944** or send an e-mail message to **bgoutreach@bah.com**.

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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

